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HASTINGS LAW NEWS

San Francisco, California

February 6, 1996

Volume 29, Number 4

Hastings 2L Became "Christmas Guardian Angel" for Jumper

Connie Standley

Editor-at-Large

The day after Christmas, Dennis Tison was in the right place at the right time. He had an opportunity few law students ever get; he saved a life.

Although for Tison, a second year student, this was not a new experience. Tison is actually Dr. Tison, having attended Loma Linda Medical school, interning at San Joaquin General Hospital in Trauma Medicine and performing his residency at the University of California at San Diego Hospital, specializing in criminal psychiatry.

Tison, an avid rower, was rowing in the bay, after having cancelled a European Christmas vacation at the last minute without telling anyone in order to spend a quiet two weeks alone. Having finished his trip around Alcatraz, he chose to skirt the Bay Bridge to catch a seaward current to take him back to the boat docks at the Dolphin Club in the Aquatic Park. As he approached the bridge, he saw the man in the water. "At first, I thought it was a sea lion, so I rowed over



Photo by Dorota Tison

Coast Guard Rescuers pull jumper out of the San Francisco Bay.

there," Tison explained.

"When I realized it was a person, I thought it was someone else from the Dolphin Club because our members often do the Bay Bridge to Golden Gate Bridge swim," he continued.

When Tison realized the person was in street clothes, he knew the guy had either jumped off the bridge or had fallen off one

of the tankers in Alameda.

"So, I asked him, 'Did you jump off the bridge,'" and he said that he had," Tison said.

The jumper was fully conscious but Tison realized he was in shock which explained why he wasn't thrashing around.

Tison threw the jumper his life vest but refused the man's pleas to pull him into his boat, because he

knew it was possible that the man had a spine injury and Tison did not want to paralyze him.

For some reason, unknown even to himself, Tison had his cellular phone with him.

"I called 911 and evidently the Coast Guard didn't believe me at first," Tison said. "I told them that I was a doctor and I was in a rowboat under the bay bridge and I had just found a jumper alive."

According to Tison, the Coast Guard told him that no one had ever survived the jump from the Bay Bridge before. Only 2 people have survived the jump from the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Coast Guard finally believed him because the jumper's girlfriend was on the bridge and she called from one of the emergency phones to say that her boyfriend had jumped, verifying Tison's incredible tale.

According to Tison, the jumper had been driving on the lower deck of the Bay Bridge toward Oakland when he got into a fight with his

See "Lifeguard" on Page 6

Follow-Up Cut & Paste Exams

Glenn E. Von Tersch

Advertising Manager

The student fiddled with the footer on his exam answer momentarily, and then switches back to writing the actual answer. As he begins typing again, he hears footsteps behind him. The proctor walks up and says he saw something suspicious and wants to know what the student was just doing. So, the student shows him the footer window. Satisfied, the proctor returns to his vantage point. Lingering in the student's mind is the feeling he was fortunate only to be adjusting the page numbering. If he had tried to cheat, he would be explaining much more now.

This actually happened to one student taking an exam on a computer. His actions were innocent, but the proctor was exceptionally vigilant and checked on him anyway. This vigilance is part of what prompted Dean Brian Gray to proclaim the computer exam experiment "a tremendous success." While the program will undoubtedly continue to have its detractors, all reviews have been positive.

Ashley Tabbaro, a second-year student, indicated that she switched from typing exams to using a computer and it was a lot better. She cited the relative quiet and the ease involved in backspacing and changing misspellings as the two biggest advantages. She also pointed out that students using computers had

See "Exams" on Page 8

Dean's Office Had a Troublesome Semester

Elke Hofmann &

Molly Peterson

News Editors &

Features Editor

To law students, grades are one of the most important aspects of law school. This fall semester, problems in Hastings' method of operations have served to compound students' anxieties about grades. The problems occurred primarily in the grading curve and the distribution of grades.

Students in Ugo Mattei's Comparative Law course took the final exam on November 10, and are still waiting for their final grades. According to Dean Brian Gray, Mattei was asked to reconsider his grades

because his grades were "off the charts" and did not come close to conforming to the curve. In a class with 89 students, Mattei did not give any grades below a B-. Mattei initially responded by suggesting that every B- be changed to a C+, since 27 percent of the grades were B- or A. Gray did not allow such a blanket correction.

According to Gray, he regularly "signs off" on minor deviations from the curve, and has only twice refused to sign off on grades. On only one other occasion has he asked a professor to reconsider his grades; in that case, the professor was asked to increase the number of As to conform to the curve.

Additionally, rumors have been rampant about the extreme

competitiveness among members of Section 4 of the first-year class. This tension culminated in one student's accurate matching of first-year students to their examination numbers.

Dean Leo Martinez stated that although the exam numbers were randomly assigned by computer, there was a glitch in the computer software. This resulted in an "inadvertent pattern" that was apparent once the grades were divided into LW&R sections, according to Dean Brian Gray at the recent ASH meeting. The error can be easily corrected, and Martinez does not anticipate a similar problem occurring again in the future.

Section 4's grades were immediately removed from the wall when students complained to the

administration. After other sections expressed similar concerns, all first-year grades were taken down. Spring grades will not be posted at all; rather, grades will be available in the Records Office.

However, the fact that a student made the effort to ascertain classmates' grades is troubling to many, especially to those in Section 4. "Originally I thought we had a section that jelled pretty well and was not representative of the competition myth of Hastings," said John Kanabara, a first-year student in Section 4. "However, this incident just goes to show how far some people are willing to go to gain every advantage over their fellow students."

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New Class for Animal Lovers

Derek St. Pierre

STAFF WRITER

In response to student support, Hastings has added a course in Animal Law to the Fall 1996 curriculum.

Members of Students Advocating Vegetarian Ethics (SAVE) introduced the idea for the course to the Curriculum Planning Committee. SAVE provided the committee with material justifying the addition of a new course and worked with faculty and administration to outline the course curriculum.

Animal Law will focus on the legal status of all animals including

pets and livestock. Discussion topics will include animal cruelty statutes, California's downed animal law, and factory farming. The course will also look into the problems surrounding legal standing and ethical obligations to animals.

Professor Bruce Wagman will instruct the class. He says he is excited about the opportunity to teach a subject that he passionately believes in. Wagman currently teaches insurance law and works at a local law firm where he does pro bono animal litigation.

Animal Law is a small but quickly growing field. At least 10

law schools currently offer animal law related programs, among them UCLA, Rutgers, the University of Vermont and Northwestern.

Environmental Law appeared on the legal scene in the 1970's. It rapidly grew into a thriving area of practice. As more people become aware of the intimate relationship between animal issues and the environment, more law schools are adding Animal Law courses.

Environmental Law students may be surprised to discover the strong link between such issues as factory farming and the environment.

NEWS BRIEFS

CONSOLIDATED BY THE HASTINGS LAW NEWS STAFF

ASH/Irwin Blood Bank

Sponsor Blood Drive

The latest in the series of Blood Drives will occur on Tuesday, February 27, and will last from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Louis B. Mayer Lounge Lounge. The usual coupons for free pints of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream will be given away, and the 11 Section Competition will also occur. Additionally, West/HazPassers will raffle off a free course.

Gender, Power, Violence and Voice

In celebration of women - as students, professionals, mothers, artist and survivors - the entire month of February will be dedicated to events relating to Gender.

Art and poetry, panel discussions, films and social events are planned to explore legal, social and economic issues facing women today. The events are the result of close coordination between the office of Student Services and Student groups such as the National Lawyer's Guild, Clara Foltz Feminist Society, ASH and Amnesty International. Calendars of events were placed in SIC folders. Students can go to the Student Services office for additional calendars or more information.

Black History Month

February is National Black History Month and the Black Law Student's Association has several events planned, including a soul food luncheon on February 15.

Sexism in US Law Schools

Associated Press

A recent ABA report showed that law school attitudes toward sexual harassment and discrimination "mirror the law firm environment that existed 10 years ago."

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

The Welfare Fraud Education Project is seeking a law student to develop a PIPF summer grant to work on a welfare fraud education and project. The student would be able to work out of Oakland, Richmond or San Francisco. For more information, please contact Erica Etelson at (510) 451-7379.

PICAP Working to Help Students Repay Loans

Tracy Ashleigh

STAFF WRITER

The ASH Loan Forgiveness Committee has received a commitment from the Hastings administration to increase funding to the PICAP program (Public Interest Career Assistance Program), a program which is designed to aid qualified graduates in repaying their student loans.

The program is administered by the Financial Aid Office, which determines eligibility, and Fiscal Services, which distributes checks to qualifying applicants. For 1995, approximately 30 alumni will be helped by the program.

To participate in the program, graduates must pass a state bar within two years of graduation, and work for a non-profit or government agency.

The earning cap for single people is \$40,000. For married graduates, the participant's income is considered to be either his/her individual income or half the couple's joint income, whichever is higher.

PICAP will cover 50-100 percent of the annual loan payments, depending on income and the number of years the graduate participates in qualifying employment.

The program is restricted to full-time employees at a position which is a JD. However, it is possible to qualify at any time, and participants may take up to two years of leave.

PICAP receives funding from

an endowment fund and the Hastings budget. For 1995-96, the administration has allocated \$25,000 to the program, for a total of \$44,000.

The ultimate goal of Hastings and the ASH committee is to provide assistance to all eligible alumni. Linda Visser, the director of Financial Aid, is pleased that the school administration has made PICAP a priority. She has been instructed to apply for more funding in case more students qualify for program than expected.

Past surveys have shown that a high proportion of students enter Hastings with a desire to pursue public interest employment. This semester, 400 students responded to a short questionnaire. Over 80 percent of them expressed an interest in public interest, and even more of them think Hastings should make loan forgiveness a priority.

Unfortunately, the average student graduates with nearly \$60,000 of debt, and the low salaries of public attorneys are simply not enough to repay this debt. The recent increase in funding will allow PICAP to provide every graduate with the opportunity to pursue a career in public interest law.

Interested students are encouraged to attend the ASH Loan Forgiveness Committee meetings, which are held on alternate Wednesdays at 3:40 pm in the Suero Room.

The Committee's goals include a commitment by administration to use 10 percent of the student differential fees

for PICAP funding. Additionally, the Committee hopes to increase Hastings' funding to the level of other Bay Area schools. (In 1994, Boalt Hall distributed \$80,000 and Stanford distributed \$119,000.) To supplement the budget, the Committee also plans to institute an alumni fundraising drive.

There will be a Community Forum with Dean Mary Kay Kane on March 6 at 3:40 p.m., at which alumni who are currently receiving Loan Assistance will speak on how the program has affected their career choices. All Hastings students are invited to attend and to learn more about the PICAP program.

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
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Deans Addressed Student Concerns at ASH Meeting

Cyril Yu
Staff Writer

Everyone was surprisingly civil when Dean Mary Kay Kane, Dean Leo Martinez, and Dean Brian Gray attended the ASH meeting last Wednesday. After dinner, the first official business was a question and answer session with the three Deans that lasted nearly two hours. Although the topics ranged from differential fees to bar passage rates, many of the questions asked by ASH Representatives focused on first-year concerns. The following is a summary of what happened:

Reputation and Ranking

Kane said that the two factors that caused Hastings' ranking to slip last year in *U.S. News & World Report* — career services and financial reporting — have been changed. Last year, the financial reporting system was changed such that it was biased against independent law schools that are not attached to undergraduate campuses; after lobbying by smaller schools, the reporting system was again changed but the result is uncertain. As for career services, there have been many changes. Some factors, however, like the job market, are beyond Hastings' control.

Jobs

According to Kane, the percentage of graduates who had

jobs lined up in May 1995 was up from the previous year to 47 percent. Compared to the other UC law schools, Hastings has a lower percentage, but a greater number of graduates finding jobs. Furthermore, the hiring market is not taken into consideration for the rankings.

Bar Passage and Educational Quality

In response to a suggestion that Hastings shrink the entering class, Kane said that the entering class was smaller, down from the 500+ of Dean Martinez's day. Kane added that although the admissions pool has been declining nationally, the quality of the applicant pool for Hastings has remained high. Because there were many "schlock" law schools, she felt it was necessary for Hastings to maintain a larger class size in order to provide students with an opportunity to obtain a quality education.

Martinez added that the best predictor of bar passage was GPA. The top 1/8 has a 90 percent passage rate, but the bottom 1/8 tends to "fall off the table." To assist at-risk students, programs are being proposed to identify such students and provide more academic support.

One third-year student opined that the grading curve and class rankings place Hastings students at a disadvantage because other law schools do not rank. Martinez disagreed, saying that most schools have GPAs and rank their

students; even where the rankings are not published, hiring committees can determine where people stand in their class. For example, Boltz has a very rigid, exact curve in which differentiations can be made. Kane added that the faculty did change the grading curve in response to changes by other law schools; the percentage of B minus allowed was increased.

Grades

What happened with Professor Ugo Mattei's grades? Gray explained that Mattei was asked to re-consider the grades because the deviations from the curve were "off the charts."

What happened to Section 4? Section four's grades were taken off the "wailing wall" when it was discovered that someone had found out who the exam numbers belonged to. Gray described this practice as "pathetic." The first rumor he wanted to dispel was that the numbers were sorted alphabetically within LW&R sections; the exam numbers were assigned before the semester even began. It just so happened that there was a discernible but "inadvertent pattern" that could be gleaned from breaking the numbers down by LW&R sections. As for the Spring exams, the section will retain the same exam numbers but students will go to the Records Office to receive their grades.

One Representative asked if grades could be distributed

individually. The Deans were indifferent Gray noted that while back, students pushed for posted grades rather than waiting for individual notice. He also mentioned that one proposal was to group the grades by subject (e.g. all Property grades grouped together), and not by section.

First-Year concerns

A first-year student inquired if more information about the grading curve could be provided earlier in the year. Gray recalled mentioning it during orientation and perhaps more should be said. But Martinez cautioned that such talk during orientation would merely exacerbate fears and concerns; instead, first-year faculty should be encouraged to explain the curve in class during the semester.

As for why LW&R is graded and Moot Court is not, Kane explained that when the programs were established, practitioners taught LW&R but third-year students taught Moot Court. Since "faculty-types" read the papers in LW&R, grades were assigned. Since then, the Moot Court instructors have changed. Gray remarked that he was troubled that students and staff placed too much importance on LW&R and Moot Court — he had learned that some students would stop reading for other classes for three weeks in the semester to complete LW&R assignments. In Dean Gray's mind this emphasis is a mistake because firms care more about the GPA

courses than LW&R and Moot Court. Gray's statement was tempered by Kane's emphasis on the importance of writing.

Another first-year concern was Career Services. One Representative felt that Hastings' first-years, compared to first-years at other law schools, were at a marked disadvantage because they were not given earlier notice of how to find summer jobs.

Kane defended Career Services, saying that there have been a great deal of staff changes, but also acknowledged that during the fall semester, the focus is rightfully on second and third year students. She suggested that future concerns should be addressed directly to Carole

Regan.

Another comment was that multiple choice exams undermined the learning process. While Martinez agreed in principle that essay exams are more challenging, he argued that in some contexts, such as in tax courses, multiple choice exams did make sense. As for professors repeating similar essay questions, those and other concerns should be brought directly to the professor's attention.

Professors

What impact do evaluations have? Both Deans conveyed the message that evaluations are taken seriously. Martinez replied that they are an integral part of evaluating untenured faculty and the feedback was used to weed out weaker adjunct professors. Kane added that for tenured faculty, the evaluations were used as part of annual evaluations that determine pay increases.

As for LW&R instructors, Martinez said that he had been pushing Toni Young to be aggressive in weeding out problem instructors, and that for the most part, he feels that she has been quite successful. In some cases, the problems are unavoidable, such as trials. If there are serious problems, go screaming to Martinez.

Coming Soon

Kane acknowledged that the University of California is starting to study the impact of differential fees; the original UC plan was to stop the increases for three years following next year's increase. Therefore, incoming first-years will be paying approximately \$11,000 next year. Hastings will respond to rising fees by increasing the amount of fees allocated to grants from 33 to 40 percent; the maximum first-year grant will be \$4,000.

In accordance with Hastings 2000, development of the patio area outside the cafeteria will be completed by next fall, the Suto Room will be spruced up so students can actually use it, and plans for the top of the Tower are moving forward now that the fire marshal has finally signed off.

Moreover, the upcoming March ball will contain a capital bond outlay for high education improvements. Hastings would receive \$10 million which would go to re-wiring the buildings, providing outlets in classrooms for computers, installing heat and air conditioning, and other projects. So, Kane urged students to "vote early and vote often."

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Career Services Got More Than Just a Face Lift

Richard Payne
STAFF WRITER

Career Services has undergone a significant transformation since last year. The workshops on resume writing, cover letters, and job search strategies have been so popular that many of them are standing room only. Some first-year students are only now being introduced to the frenzy of activities taking place in the Career Services office. One student was recently greeted at the door and asked if he needed any help. When he asked to see the director, he was surprised to discover that his solicitous hostess was the director, Carole Regan. Other students have been delighted with offers of coffee and cake at the workshops.

The friendly hospitality is just one aspect of the new Career Services. Regan has restructured not only the atmosphere but the whole philosophy of the office. Although only half-staffed during the semester, Career Services managed to present over 66 fifty-minute workshops. The workshops are a response to the

discovery that many students who come in are ill-informed, don't understand how to conduct a job search, and do not possess the necessary tools or skills to find a job.

One of the goals of Career Services is to prepare first-year students in order to reduce the stress that accompanies the fall pre-On Campus Interview process. This year, that process included crash courses for second-years on resume-writing, interview workshops and conducting mock interviews. The consensus of students who took part in OCI was that the preparation available was very helpful as they approached their interviews. However, Regan would like to begin the process in the first year, grooming students almost from their arrival at Hastings for the process of finding a job.

Regan is determined that the present crop of first-years will have a chance to work on their skills and find summer employment. To this end, Regan and Marina Sarmiento, the other Career Services Counselor, have dedicated themselves to

improving the quality of the Career Services office. Students are encouraged not only to take advantage of the programs and facilities, but also to have lunch and chat in the new offices while browsing through the listings. In addition to the various workshops and scheduled appointments, Career Services also offers "walk-ins" every day from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. This time has been set aside for students to drop by for a quick review of their resume or with interview strategy questions. During the fall semester, every student who signed in before 5:00 p.m. was seen. Partly as a result of under-staffing, Regan and Sarmiento have been working overtime, sometimes staying as late as 7:00 p.m. to meet with students.

Some of the burden will be eased by the arrival of a new professional, Irene Shin, a J.D. from King Hall School of Law at UC Davis. Shin will begin working at Career Services on February 1, as the new Legal Employment Coordinator. Shin will manage all recruiting efforts, including OCI, enabling Regan and Sarmiento to spend more time

counseling. Funding has also been allocated for another position, the Alumni Mentor Coordinator, and efforts are presently being made to find a suitable candidate.

Although some students are critical and dismiss the Career Services' efforts as promoting self-help, this new approach reflects the realities of the current job market. National statistics indicate that in 1994, OCI programs, in addition to listings with career services and classified advertisements, accounted for less than one-third of graduate jobs. Students who wait for employers to come to them are likely to be disappointed (and unemployed). To make matters worse, the Bay Area is the most competitive legal market in the United States. There are nine ABA accredited law schools in the area, and numerous non-ABA accredited law schools. In addition to local law school students, many students come to the Bay Area from east coast law schools to add to the pool of prospective lawyers.

Career Services is doing everything possible to de-emphasize OCI and stress alternative ways of finding jobs.

The Twelfth Annual Northern California Public Interest/Public Sector Legal Careers Day will be held on Saturday, February 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hastings.

Public Interest Day represents another non-traditional source of employment. Career Services has made a commitment to HPILF to do as much to prepare students for Public Interest Days as for OCI, and all the staff members will be there to help students with any last minute questions or preparation. In addition, Jami Tillson has been hired as the Public Interest Coordinator, and will be available for appointments in Career Services Tuesdays 11:30-3:30 and Fridays 11-3:30.

Career Services' new attitude is a realistic attempt to prepare students to succeed in finding employment both during and after law school. Law school graduates can no longer assume they will fall into a cushy job with only minimal effort and preparation. Especially for students seeking positions in the Bay Area, research and preparation are essential. Career Services' goal is to help students develop strategies that will be rewarded with a satisfying job.

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Exams

Continued From Page 1

to worry about losing files, something the average student never need consider.

Andrea La Campagne, also a second-year student, said "using a pen and bluebook was like writing with coal." When the opportunity to use computers for exams was announced, she immediately signed up. La Campagne has not handwritten exams since her undergrad days in 1986. Since then, she has used a laptop for business and in graduate school. Her graduate program required use of a laptop and e-mail, so going back to pen and paper last year was a shock. She felt the typed so much faster that it was an advantage. However, she pointed out that handwriting her exams had been a distinct disadvantage.

David Salzer, a first-year student, felt that using computers really didn't make that much of a difference. He felt that the time he saved by typing went into outlining his answer, but he estimated this only gave him an extra two minutes of planning time on each exam. Salzer stated, "I have used computers for papers since I was in sixth grade. I am just more used to typing essays, and that translates into a little more confidence."

Ken Walton, another second-year student, decided to use computers for one particular reason. As an architect, he "learned to print nifty, but very slowly." If you have ever looked at a set of blueprints, this is easy to believe. Last year, Walton typed most of his exams but handwrote one. He felt that the only advantage in using the computer was speed, as he could finally express himself at a reasonable rate.

It was a comfortable way to take an exam for students who had used a computer as their primary tool for school and work in the past. Many agreed that if they had written their exams, the results would have been messier and a little less organized, but the substance would be the same. The much vaunted capabilities the computer boasts as far as spell-checking and cut-and-paste are fine when writing a newspaper article or paper. On an exam, the time pressure involved eliminates those features from most people's attention.

While cheating was a possibility, the proctors did an excellent job of keeping the opportunities to a minimum. The screening of hard drives before every exam combined with the proctor's vigilance and obvious knowledge of computers made it tough to imagine how a student

might find a way to cheat.

Additionally, none of the students seemed to think writing exams on a computer led to higher grades. One student had spoken to a professor about one of his lower grades. The professor indicated that the grade was low because the student had managed to throw in too much information that was just plain wrong. The student felt that he would not have thrown in as much wrong information had he not had the extra time afforded him through the use of his computer.

Several students pointed out that seeing and hearing other students leave during their exams was an added distraction. All computer users took their exams in the Louis B. Mayer Lounge. As a result, if one exam was 2 hours long and the other was 3 hours long, the students taking the longer exam got to witness a mass exodus as the students who had just finished the short exam packed up their computers and went home.

Some students did not own the computers they used. Some were able to borrow computers from fellow students, but others chose to rent. Walton rented a 386-based IBM compatible laptop for about a week and a half, at a price of \$70. He then borrowed his roommate's computer for his last exam. He figured at that rate, he was paying roughly the price of an expensive textbook. As Walton put it, you didn't need a blazing fast machine, this was just word processing."

Professor Bhagwat, a strong supporter of using computers on exams, indicated that (things generally went well, but that he saw little participation. He said that the computer exams did not stand out, and that computers are not just the advantage that people perceive them to be.

A number of other faculty members seemed to think the overall experience was a positive one, but that nothing about the computer exams separated them from other exams. One professor was rumored to have said the typewritten and computer exams were more legible, but that legibility was not a grading criteria.

Professor Hutton chose not to allow students to use computers on his exam. However, he said this decision was prompted by concern over his ability to use his exams in the future. He does not release past exams, and did not want students to be able to take their answers with them.

As indicated by Dean Gray's summation of the experiment for this past semester, the administration viewed this as a positive experience. Among his observations were that there were

no problems with facilities, either in terms of space or power failures. The school received several letters complimenting the proctors on their work — about both their watchful nature and their technical ability. Additionally, several letters complimented Eric Noble on his handling of screening hard drives and telling students what they could keep on their computers during the exam. The way the exams were handled after the exam period ended, the professors had no evidence of which exams were written on a computer and which were typed.

Noble served as Dean Gray's technical advisor in implementing this program. He expressed surprise at two things. One, he underestimated the amount of time it would take to screen student's hard drives. It took 10-15 minutes per student, which, with 50 students participating, was extremely time-consuming. His other surprise came at the relatively low level of computer literacy among some students; apparently, Noble had to instruct several students on how to backup files from their hard drives to their floppy disks. He had expected the average computer user to have this skill.

There were some problems, although these were minimal. One student turned in an apparently unformatted disk, with no exam answer on it. The student was called in and asked to provide a copy of his answer. However, his answer had been modified since the exam. At this point, Dean Gray suspected this student would get an Administrative F, no questions.

The student explained that he had simply looked at his answer after he got home, and had saved a couple of spelling changes. Well, with some luck supplied by Norton Utilities (TM) the exam was recovered from the student's original "unformatted" disk. Apparently, the disk had a defect which prevented normal access to the files on it. The student's story was confirmed; he had merely spell-checked his test and saved it again.

Two other students had outlines in the trash can of their floppy disks. These two students both claimed that they had forgotten to delete the outlines prior to the test, but that they had no idea the outlines were there during the test. The proctors also indicated that they saw no evidence during administration of the exam that the students had cheated. On the basis of this unusual set of circumstances, Dean Gray chose to let the students' grades stand.

One student was caught with an outline on her hard drive before

the exam. She was then required to delete the outline, and allowed to take the exam. Dean Gray chose not to intervene in this case either. He felt that it may have been an honest mistake; regardless, the student had no opportunity to use the outline during the exam.

Despite minor problems, the computer exam experiment is viewed as a success. As Dean Gray stated "I have a strong presumption that we will do this again this semester." The administration plans to look at most of the large classes where a significant number of students use computers on the exams. The idea is to compare the GPA of those students using computers with the GPA of the class as a whole. If the GPAs show a large spread, the program may be called into question, but the expectation is that computer users will have a comparable, or even slightly lower GPA than the overall GPA.

One planned change involves

allowing the school to supply computers for students taking exams. The school has some old IBM compatibles and students will be able to sign up to use these computers on exams. While these are ancient computers, they are the same ones most of the faculty use daily.

Beyond this academic year, the decision rests in the hands of Dean Martinez and Incoming Associate Academic Dean Eileen Scallen. Professor Scallen has adopted a "wait-and-see" approach. She plans to consider all the information and commentary she hears, and decide how to proceed from there. She did indicate that she has heard only positive comments so far.

Some students have heard rumors that the school may begin requiring computers. The rationale behind this seems to be that the school can then give financial aid to students who need to purchase computers.

Lifesaver

Continued From Page 1

girlfriend. He told her that he had had enough of her, pulled his car over and jumped.

A Coast Guard cutter arrived and picked up the jumper.

"I reached into my bag of tricks and, along with my phone, I also had my camera," Tison said. "So, I took a picture of the guy being pulled into the Coast Guard boat."

As Tison rowed back to the Dolphin Club, he could see the ambulance arriving at Pier 1, near Gordon Biersch, to pick up the jumper.

Due to his emergency room experience, Tison attached very little importance to the incident.

"I'd worked in the ER before, so I didn't think this was that spectacular," he said.

Once back at the Dolphin Club, Tison told the story to a fellow member who works for the San Francisco Examiner. The man called the paper to tell them of the incident.

"As soon as they heard I had a picture, they went crazy," Tison said. "So, I went down to the City Desk and then I went home, figuring it was all over. The next morning they called me and said they wanted my picture for the front page of the Examiner."

The Examiner released the story and photo to the Associated Press and the United Press International news wires, so the story went national. Tison appeared on the Today show, was in U.S. News & World Report and was CNN's Sports Pick of the



Doris Tison rows in the SF Bay.

Week. He has received letters from various senators and now Cellular One and GTE are in a bidding war to use him in a national advertising campaign.

Tison visited the jumper in the hospital. He had hypothermia, a broken vertebrae and a punctured lung but was expected to fully recover.

"I entered through the back door and exited through the front door, only to be besieged by the cameras," Tison said. "The nurses had called the press while I was visiting him."

"He said that he owes me his second life and his family told me that I was his Christmas guardian angel," he said. "His girlfriend was also there, holding his hand."

Tison was in Napa a few weeks ago and a woman from Florida came up to him and asked if he could have her picture taken with him. She had seen him on the news at home.

"She said that it was amazing to run into me after having seen me in the news," Tison said.

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Welcome to the Cabaret

Glenn E. Von Tersch
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Did you get to hear Professor Dodge sing at the Cabaret? And surely you at least listened to Wendy Conole, Pat Hoopes and Steven Coopersmith, three tremendously talented members of the student body? Or maybe you were busy dancing in the Law Cafe? Or was learning to juggle what brought you to Cabaret?

Patsy Oppenheim declared the event a "tremendous success," while estimating that 700 people ate dinner at the Fifth Annual Cabaret, which seems to imply the Law Cafe contained 700 people. Then again, given that the beer ran out around 9 P.M., 700 people may be a pretty good guess.

Cabaret began five years ago as a means for building up the



Photo by Susan Paine
Students enjoyed beer and learned to juggle at the Cabaret.

Hastings community. It was meant to give the students and faculty an opportunity to mingle in a relaxed setting. Oppenheim felt that the

faculty participation this year was excellent, with many professors bringing their spouses and children.

Additionally, a number of students managed to bring their spouses and children. At least one mythical fiancé showed up, making believers out of a number of students.

A few other normally unseen members of the Hastings community were the celebrity bartenders, who by day occupy the senior administrative positions at the school. While these guys looked a little young to be serving alcohol, no one seemed too upset at having them there. The only notable absences were the Deans, who were at an alumni function in Las Vegas.



Photo by Susan Paine
Balloon Haters were a popular attraction at Cabaret.

Student reactions were generally positive, although many expressed disappointment that the faculty seemed to have left relatively early. Then again, if you were dragging a five year old kid or carrying a baby, you might want to head out early, too. Students also seemed impressed by the transformation of the Law Cafe.

The balloons and the DJ left people in a confused state. One student repeatedly remarked that she couldn't get over the idea of dancing in the Law Cafe.

Cabaret involved a lot of effort from a lot of people. Jodie Shipper, a second year, coordinated everything. ASH and Student Services supplied some of the funds. Bayco Vending donated the soft drinks. Dean Kane saw to it that some of the wine from the Hastings Wine Cellar came up for the event. West/Barpassers supplied the plastic cups and the beer to fill them. Most importantly, many students, including, but not limited to, Bita Abdollahi, Chantal Sampogna, Andrew Niedrick, and Deanna Wilson worked at decorating and setting things up.



Photo by Susan Paine
Victor Cohen, 2L, brought his wife, Patsy, and their daughter, Gabrielle, to the Cabaret.

Given the success of this event, people are already looking forward to the next Cabaret, where we may even see Professor Van Kessel doing ballroom dancing.

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OPINION

En Banc

Death Before Dishonor?

Hastings has no honor. At least, Hastings has no honor code.

Unlike many other law schools (and even many undergraduate institutions), Hastings does not require students to adhere to a code of ethics; although we will be required to pass the moral fitness portion of the bar exam and to adhere to the code of professional conduct.

The problem with the lack of an honor code is exemplified by the recent Section 4 grade scandal. When Dean Gray spoke to Section 4, a student asked what would be done to the student who had "cracked the code." Dean Gray responded that he was unsure if anything could be done since the individuals had not violated any Academic Regulations. Meaning: sorry, but it's not against the rules.

That is not an acceptable response. Granted, it was the Administration's fault that there was a discernible pattern to the exam numbers but the responsible student made a concerted effort to determine the grades of the members of his or her section and distribute this information.

Grades are confidential. If a student chooses to share his or her grades with fellow students, that is an individual decision; it is wrong for another student to take that decision away. It is a violation of privacy and it would be a violation of an honor code, if Hastings had one.

At the very least, a formal reprimand should be issued to those students involved so that this incident can be taken into account by the Committee of Bar Examiners when they review the culprits for the moral fitness test. At the most, the responsible parties should be expelled. In the military, it would be called, "conduct unbecoming an officer." Why not conduct unbecoming an attorney?

Currently, that would be an oxymoron. The general public does not think there is any conduct that would be too low for a lawyer.

The legal profession has a bad reputation. Sharks, we are called. We are considered to be an unethical gathering with which the general public is forced to deal.

In order to combat this centuries-old stereotype, we must make a concerted effort to pass the muster of public scrutiny. We must use methods like an honor code and pro bono work to show that we are not the "bottom-feeders" that the majority of the population believes us to be.

We need to find a way to infuse our profession with the integrity it is lacking.

Incidents like this only drag us back down and it is only through the instigation of an honor code system that this problem will be ameliorated and lawyers will ever be as liked and trusted as our medical counterparts.

To the Editor:

As a former college instructor and current third year student, I have been thinking about how to improve the basic curriculum at Hastings. I hope others will comment on my suggestions as succeeding issues of the Law News. I'd also be interested in what the Deans think. These suggestions are in order of importance to me:

1) Con Law needs to be taught first year. Con Law is the basis of everything else. Teaching it first would help move other classes along since proffs wouldn't have to stop and explain concepts we need to know in order to understand cases we're reading in their classes. As it is now, by the time we get to second year, we've actually already learned a lot of Con Law by this hit or miss method. The course could fit into the first-year curriculum, if it were reduced to 4 units, which would be enough. (The second semester could easily be condensed.)

2) Legal Writing and Research should be a whole semester. (After the first ten weeks, we could be taught Lexis/Westlaw to use the rest of the semester.) The skills learned in this course are the most vital for getting that first job. And most of us at Hastings do need to improve our writing. I think if Hastings students wrote better, more of us would get jobs before we graduated.

3) Contracts is a difficult subject. We need competent professors for it so that we don't have to learn the subject matter on our own in bar review. Also, we should have some contract-writing practice in the class. Perhaps third-year students who have taken the contract writing class could function as TAs/readers for this. I suggest 6 units total.

4) Torts should be increased to at least 5 units. We're missing some vital tort principles because of the previous change from 6 units. For example, my section never learned defamation.

5) To accommodate these changes, some required courses would need to be moved to first semester of second year. I suggest moving Property at least. Maybe Crim law could also be moved and combined

with Crim Pro. The statutory course might also be moved; although now that it's in place, that might be a hard sell. I look forward to comments on these proposals.

Sonda Beal
(Editor's Note: Beal indicated that Deans Martinez and Gray were both provided with copies of this letter.)

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the meeting Dean Gray had with Section 4 today. I have mixed feelings about the way the grade controversy was handled.

I am not convinced that it was a very prudent idea to inform the class how the numbers were distributed since now we all know that the numbers immediately around us most likely belonged to members of our LW&R class. It is natural to compare yourself to the grade distribution around you and even though the grades are no longer posted, if there were consistent patterns or an extremely high or low grade around your number, chances are that they were remembered and the corresponding person could be ascertained.

The allegation that Section 4 is deeply rife with tension (apparently not found in other sections) is not purely accurate.

There is a sense of community within Section 4 that I haven't really seen in other sections (and I have talked with many members of other sections about this). Yes there is going to be some level of tension and anxiety because we are in LAW SCHOOL with strong-minded individuals competing for a handful of A's which will eventually determine if we get hired by that law firm or obtain that judicial clerkship. For those of us looking for summer positions, many of us realize we will probably be passed up for Stanford or Boalt students (both of which have more liberal grading curves). This frustration is bound to manifest eventually. Perhaps Hastings should think about liberalizing the curve so that we seem more competitive in the job market.

I can anticipate finger pointing or at least suspicion that can do nothing but augment the "tension" that is allegedly so prevalent within our section. If Hastings is so concerned about the mood of the class, why would it add more conflict by announcing that there is definitely a grade "scandal" going on? Have these claims been substantiated? Is there any valid proof other than hearsay? I know many people in my section who associate in different groups and this was the first I had ever heard of a systematic grade "outing." I question the validity of conveying what may just be exaggerated rumor and what may lead to conflict between groups.

These were just some of my immediate thoughts about the session today. If these rumors are indeed true then it would definitely be a sad commentary on the competition that drives law school and its students. I can't help but think that maybe some of it can be assuaged by the law school itself.

Anonymous
(Editor's Note: While it is normally our policy not to print anonymous letters to the editor, we felt that the incisiveness of this letter warranted an exception.)

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This is About Law School

Mark Faas
GUEST COLUMNIST

If you could own any painting in the world, which would it be? You don't need to be realistic — it could be any painting.

I would pick this one I saw at a museum last winter in Montreal. I don't remember what it was named, but I think it might have been "Club Sandwich." If that wasn't the exact name, it was probably called something pretty dang similar because that was what the painting was of. A club sandwich, cut into fourths and against a green background. What the could you call the painting besides "Club Sandwich?"

Who knows? Anyhow, I really like club sandwiches. No, you don't understand, I really like club sandwiches. Since I was a kid. Once, when we stopped at Denny's on the way home from the city when I was about eight, my mom let me order two but we couldn't leave until I ate "every last bit." I would have made it, but I hadn't counted on that second order of fries that came with 'em. For about two years of my life I was a vegetarian. It started right around the time I began dating a

vegetarian (and ended right around the time I stopped dating a vegetarian). But even then, I ate club sandwiches. People would say, "I thought you were a vegetarian?" That might not sound too annoying to you, but it really started to grate on my nerves.

So now I still eat about four or five of them a week. It's not that I'm particularly unhealthy eater or anything like that. Right now, in fact, I'm having an unplanned snack of an artichoke (in mustard even, not mayonnaise) and a Wiman's Fruit Smoothie. It's not like I have McDonald's for all the meals where I can't get to a Denny's or some other place with Clubs.

I don't go to Denny's anymore. No, not just any old club sandwich will do for my now-refined palate. I have found the best Club in San Francisco. I won't name the fine eating establishment that makes it though — I don't want you to think this is a plug for some local sandwich place. If you're looking for the restaurant review, it's on page 14.

The reason it's The Best Club in S.F. I don't really want to get into that. If I start describing the turkey and bread and stuff, I'm afraid you'll stop reading this. But

I could describe it if I wanted to. Suffice it to say that I'm confident that soon I'll be able to tell who's working in the kitchen (at that unnamed restaurant) on any given day just by looking at my sandwich. I am an expert.

I knew the best club sandwich in Stockton. I knew the best one in L.A. Now I know the best club in San Francisco. I take two buses to get it (the 19 and the 6, 61, 7, 71, or, at peak periods, the 66 or 66L). My roommates must wonder, "if he walks to school, how come he always buys a Fast Pass?"

Four or five Clubs a week. Somewhere in Montreal there is an artist that painted a portrait of a club sandwich. I wonder what he was thinking.

At the Ralph's grocery store on the corner of Wilshire and Bundy in Santa Monica there is a gray-haired butcher, or at least there was one when I used to shop there three or four years ago.

This was back in my pre-vegetarian days.

I would order half-a-pound of turkey. The butcher reached down, picked up about twenty thin slices of turkey and put them on the scale. The electronic display read .50, exactly half-a-pound.

I asked for my usual quarter-pound of Swiss cheese. He picked up around fifteen slices and put them on the scale. Exactly .25 pounds, according to the little red lights.

And finally I needed a third-of-a-pound of smoked salmon. (Keep in mind, this is about law school — it's not a math problem.) The butcher put the Nova Scotia on the scale. .32 pounds.

"You missed," I said. The butcher kinda smiled, maybe. He was only off by about one-hundredth of a pound, but it was the first time that what he picked up wasn't the exact weight I requested.

"You're pretty good at that," I said.

"I ought to be," he replied. "I've been doing it for so long. Too long."

Recycle
your
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Law News



At the End of Gray's Reign, Hastings says 'Come on Eileen'

Andrew Herman
OPINIONS EDITOR

Dean Eileen. Has a nice ring to it. Well, you'd better get used to the concept because Assistant Academic Dean Gray's benevolent rule is concluding and succeeding him is the pride of St. Olaf, the Dean of a Thousand Lakes, our very own Golden Gopher, Professor Eileen Scallion.

Somewhat Dean Brian wouldn't have sounded right, but Dean Eileen is downright multifarious, it could be a Beach Boys' song. You could find even think of calling her anything else. Perhaps this beckons a new, more informal, atmosphere at Hastings. Teachers and students will address each other by their first names. Everyone will eat together in the Law Cafe. A spirit of harmony and peace will embrace the school. We'll all make giant ice sculptures and talk like we're from Canada.

Okay, probably not.

But I'm betting that Dean Eileen will be an excellent addition to the third-floor troika. With her mid-western brand of friendliness and her dedication to student issues, well, she'll get things done and there'll be plenty of jello for all. (I like concord grape.)

My pleasure with Dean Eileen's ascension should not diminish our appreciation of Dean Gray. He has been an excellent Assistant Academic Dean and, whether the students body appreciates this or not, I know that he will be sorely missed.

He is the quintessential administrator. Simply put, he takes care of problems. If I had a quarter for every time I heard, "I'm going to see Dean Gray..." "His is a thankless job. Students only want to deal with him when they have a problem. No one ever says, 'Gee, I had such a great experience in Tortis, I'm going to see Dean Gray.'"

He is the ultimate arbiter for the grading process, occasionally addressing problems of an international magnitude. Some idiot figured out all the grades in your section, it's Dean Gray. Somebody steals the LWR cases, go see Dean Gray. Having trouble with your journal, go see Dean Gray. Big fight in the 1M basketball league, personal problems, etc., etc., etc.

Of course, a lot of the time, his job is to say no or make unpopular decisions. Obviously, students hate that, but he always listened, he was never arbitrary and was scrupulously fair. I didn't always agree with his decisions, and on occasion felt the administration was being disingenuous. But his door was never closed and in an administration often accused of being removed and aloof, that is no small accomplishment.

He has served as a mentor to dozens of students, dispensing a blend of insight and down-to-earth wisdom on a range of issues from water law to judicial clerkships. Students looking for a sage source looked on to Dean Gray.

He kept his pulse on the what was happening with students. When I got job, he heard about it and congratulated me. It made me feel good.

Brian Gray's service to the school will probably go unrecognized by the student body. We're usually not so good about saying nice things about people. But while we may not have called him Dean Brian, he served us well and we were lucky to have been here on his watch.

HASTINGS LAW NEWS

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"Tense dialogue comes truth"

Interleague Baseball Competitions

Point: 28 Monkeys

Counterpoint: Fiddlin'

Molly Peterson

FEATURES EDITOR

Pitchers and catchers report on the 14th of February. Everyone else reports on February 20th, except the Yankees, who are out there on the 18th, apparently believing that the two extra days will mitigate their mediocrity. "The Natural" was on during the end of the Super Bowl. Say Hey Willie Mays is making public appearances for Say What Willie Brown and the China Basin Ballpark Plan. (Yes on B!)

Despite this wealth of positive karma, the idiots in charge of Our Nation's Pastime have once again surpassed themselves by voting for interleague play between western division teams on a trial basis next season. This is such a desperate pathetic ploy for attention that it surpasses that suicidal woman on Melrose Place married to that spineless guy. There are several reasons why this is ill-advised and erroneous (and, consequently, entirely predictable behavior by the owners):

1. Tradition.

This is only good as an argument when it comes to baseball, but you could almost stop there. There's no compelling need to see any National League team play an American League one for keeps before the World Series; it's what makes the World Series such a good idea.

There has been some call for an all-lower series between the Cubs and the Red Sox, and on its face that's not a half-bad idea. Nonetheless, it's just as much fun, if not more, to speculate about what would happen if these teams ever made it to the real show and not some meaningless season series buried in the tedious detritus of the 161 other games. These two teams embody the tragedy of the sport that is necessary to the preservation of the game's character. No season matchup should be allowed to change that.

2. Negative Effect on Pennant Races.

Scheduling advantages could abound with interleague play as well. Imagine if you will, a pennant race between the San Francisco Giants and the San Diego Padres (stop laughing, pick yourself up off the floor and imagine, even if it is kind of a effort for a hypothetical). The Giants play the A's at the Coliseum and the Padres play the Angels in an American League park. Different rules apply in each park since the laws of the several leagues apply to substantive law in the federated system governing baseball. There is no Erie doctrine at Camden Yards now, and until there is this plan is foolhardy.

3. They'll never get rid of the designated hitter.

As long as they have the designated hitter there's no point in having interleague play because of the weird effect it could have on the pennant race (see #2). Everyone agrees that interleague play would be much less problematic in the absence of the designated hitter. But nobody will challenge the players' union in get rid of the designated hitter.

Unions are a silly entity in baseball, if only because they bear so little resemblance to their machinist and plumber brethren. (Remember when the Teamsters walked the line to support the players?) You don't see all that many players walking in support of auto workers, but that's another column.) Nonetheless, the players' association has a lot of power, especially when not being distracted by its erstwhile foe Bud Selig. It's hard to believe, but washed-up old hacker like Mark McGuire, who should just retire if they can't play the whole game, can stranglehold baseball.

Among other National League owners, Peter McGowan has already said he'd vote against a continuation of this interleague garbage if the designated hitter sticks around. If a popular revolution arises within the usually monolithic owner's committee, the source from whence this silly decree came, we could wave good-bye to this idea after just a year, confirming it forever to barroom bets and trivia contests of the 21st century.

In sum, I acknowledge it's relatively easy to make this argument in the multi-league Bay Area. We're spoiled. The A's play the Giants every year already. But in what? What little class and tradition and dignity remain in the game of baseball must be preserved at all costs, and if the only costs are the Casanovas and the Jack Clarks then they're minimal. Interleague play is a stupid idea. As far as baseball goes, call me Scallio.

Andrew Herman

OPINIONS EDITOR

In her eloquent condemnation of inter-league play, Molly "Ven" Peterson suggests that tradition dictates that never the two leagues shall meet and likens the owners to "28 Monkeys." Her cinematic analogy is apt, she's just wrong about the movie.

A more apt comparison is to "Fiddler on the Roof." Like the namesake fiddler, league separation may have once had a purpose. But today, amid the wild card playoff hoopla and free agent frenzies, no one can remember exactly what that purpose is.

If tradition was the answer to Major League Baseball's woes, we'd scrap the designated hitter, eliminate half the teams, and go back to one division in each league. Tradition holds about as much sway in the Majors as Dean Cain does with the Records Chaz (who, for the uninitiated, run the show). That means exactly, none. Nada. Zilch.

Let's face it, baseball is dull as dishwater. When was the last time you actually sat down and watched an entire game? Anything the baseball owners, led by Bud "Lurch" Selig, want to do to live it up is fine by me. So who are we kidding with this tradition argument? The fledgling Major League Soccer has as much claim to tradition argument as Major League Baseball does. (Plus better nicknames like the Columbus Crew, whose mascot are three hairy construction workers.)

Over the years, baseball's tradition has slowly been eroded. First two divisions, then the designated hitter, then baseball on green concrete, then indoor baseball on green concrete, then expansion, then more expansion, then teal uniforms, then three divisions, then even more expansion. In a year you'll be watching the Arizona Diamondbacks or something.

By adding interleague play, we'll get to see exciting matchups like Oakland/San Francisco, Chicago/Chicago and New York/New York. Of course, we'll also be forced to see unsavory rivalries like Seattle/San Diego and Florida/Cleveland. So the idea's not perfect. But modern baseball is so flawed that allowing Hookers to design the umpire's uniforms it, "and today's home plain umpire is Kathy Ireland..." couldn't underestimate it. Although the thought of seeing Don Deakins in a halter top isn't a pleasant one.

The argument that this will upset the competitive balance also fails. The schedule is already skewed because teams play more games out of their division than they do in it. Last year the Yankees had a better record in their division, but because the Red Sox feasted on the weaker West, they won the pennant.

Plenty of other arguments have been mounted against inter-league play. My answer to all of them is simple. Who cares. In an age when the owners have deposed the commissioner, alienated fans, and displayed their avarice for all the world to see, baseball has become an anachronism. Arguably, three sports are more popular in America. Ninety-nine percent of the games take too long and are meaningless. Franchise relocation threats are an annual occurrence. And the owners are discussing adding two more new teams by the turn of the century, further diluting the talent pool.

Thus, Molly's mantra of "tradition, tradition, tradition" is about as meaningful as spring training. We should embrace change wholeheartedly and leave tradition to those who can actually claim it.

The Quiz

Are You Ready to Get Wired?

Runners abound that email and internet access are (finally!) coming. But are you prepared to leave the Dinosaur Age behind? Take this quiz and find out.

- Which part of this email address would be your login name?
jimbo@cac.hastings.edu
a. jimbo
b. cac.hastings.edu
c. jimbo@cac
d. jimbo
- In standard World Wide Web addresses, what does "http" stand for?

- hyper text transfer protocol
- here is the target place
- home page (http) parameter
- type this trick plug
- When telnetting from a UNIX shell, the standard escape character is:
a. ^-
b. ^C
c. ^Z
d. ^Q
- What do the last four digits in this telnet address designate?
128.231.21.101 4040
a. the country code
b. the computer speed
c. the modem speed
d. the port number

- What are you doing if you are "spamming"?
- filling other people's screen with useless repetitive garbage
- acting like a macho man on-line
- making a spam sandwich on-line
- sending dumb canned jokes on-line all the time
- What are you doing if you "finger" somebody?
a. you know, giving them "the finger," ironically
b. accusing them of spamming
c. eliciting account information from their server
d. pointing them out to others on line
- What would you use Lynx for?
a. to access the World Wide Web in a windows environment
b. to access the World Wide Web from a UNIX shell
c. to access your email from the World Wide Web

- to link your email to your word processor
- What is alt.surfway.die die die?
- the Barney Hazy Homepage, on the World Wide Web
- a Usenet discussion group
- a grammatically and structurally incorrect sentence
- the motto of MABB (Mothers All for Busting Barney)
- What is IRC?
- a best-market
- Internet Relay Chat
- a place to discuss religion, philosophy, and indulge in cybersex
- all of the above
- Which of the following would you need to configure in Windows 95 for 32-bit internet access?

- Client view for Microsoft Works
- IPX/NetBIOS protocols
- TCP/IP Stack
- all of the above

- The answers:
1. c. 2. a. 3. b. 4. d. 5. a. 6. c. 7. b. 8. d. 9. d. 10. c.
How do you rate:
(0-2) Scooby-Dooby-Newsie - Better
(3-4) AOL - Oh, and here's a tip: remember not to type using ALT-CAPS. People will hate you if it.
(5-6) Net Surf - Well, at least you're not totally clueless. Buy yourself an Internet for Dummies.
(7-8) Speed Race - Keep in mind that moderation is the key, or else you will turn into a...
(9-10) Net Addict - Get a life. You haven't slept in how many days?

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FEATURES

Your Psychic Friend

Is Love in Your Stars for Valentine's Day?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Those who share the same birthday as St. Valentine are in for a big surprise, which could be either very pleasant or rather disappointing. Since grades came out already, the surprise won't involve school work. Instead of taking your special someone out to dinner on Wednesday night, opt for a weekend away.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

The lunar new year (which is just around the corner) will bring many changes to your life. Since you failed to stick by most of the resolutions that you made for the Gregorian new year, now is the time to make them again, and see that you fulfill those promises. Discuss any relationship difficulties with your significant other as soon as the problems arise. Delaying them will only cause the situation to get worse.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

If your love life has been looking rather dismal lately, it's no one's fault but your own. And you wonder why people call you "Mr. Ms. Frigidaire"? Loosen up, babe. You'll be surprised at the difference it will make!

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

So your last romantic encounter was rather disastrous. He/She was bad news from the beginning, but you wouldn't listen to your own good advice and the advice of your friends, who are now saying "I told you so." Well, you win some and then you lose some, but it usually all works out in the end, and there's no use in crying over spilled milk. Celebrate your Valentine's Day by renting a bunch of videos and making a mess out of your place, and delight in the fact that there is no one else around to complain about it.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

As a kid, you were really shy. Now that you're an adult you still are, which is okay only if you want to be alone for the rest of your life. Seize the moment and ask that guy/girl out for a date on Valentine's Day. If you don't, you may be bypassing the opportunity to get together with the love of your life.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Unfortunately, that Valentine's Day holds no promise of love for you. Instead, you need to take this time out to evaluate the relationship that you are in. If you are unhappy with your partner, discuss these problems with him/her. If your partner is unwilling to accommodate, and you have done everything you can, then it is time to stand down a new path in life.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)

Does there seem to be something missing in your life? Perhaps it's because you have the tendency to choose your partners according to their good looks or the size of their bank accounts. Well, you know, the apple might just look bright and shiny, but when you cut it open to see what's inside, you'll find the innards to be dark, moldy and festering. Try looking beyond people's physical appearance for once, and maybe you can fill that empty space.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Lately, life has been pretty boring for you. Your friends are probably no more to say this to you, but maybe it's because you are a boring person. Even your partner, who promised to stay with you through thick and thin, is now wondering why he/she made that vow. If you would like your life to be a tad more interesting than that insipid bowl of rice pudding you just ate, now is the time to try something unusual and daring.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Sometimes, you are overbearing. Well, to be more accurate, you are overbearing most of the time, to the point of scaring away any potential love interests. There are two solutions for you: 1. find someone just as overbearing as you, who won't be scared away — but on the other hand, your pairing will lead to some rather spectacular fights; or 2. tone it down just a little bit — not everyone thinks you are as wonderful as you think you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You've been dreading this Valentine's Day because you'll be spending it alone, and because it will remind you of your last Valentine's Day and how wonderful it was. Now your ex has gone and run off with Ralph/Ralphette, and left you crying. Well, guess, if you hadn't treated him/her so badly, maybe he/she would not have left you in the first place! Hopefully, you've learned your lesson by now and know how to treat people better. Take your new found skills of understanding and find yourself a date for the big day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

One thing to keep in mind — "tomorrow is another day." Even if your Valentine's Day turns out to be the biggest disaster in your life, you can remember it as the end of the world. Well, then again, tomorrow may bring even worse disasters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

You need to take that chance and go on that date you've been putting off. You never know when that special someone will come into your life. Love doesn't always strike when you least expect it, but when it does, it is usually unexpected. So, don't look for it, but don't avoid it either.

The Culture Test

A Novice's Night at the SF Symphony

Molly Peterson

FEATURES EDITOR

As far as knowledge of classical music goes, I am the equivalent of either of the two main characters on "B.J. and the Bear." But even that chimpanzee would have appreciated the San Francisco Symphony's presentation of violinist Isaac Stern and pianist Robert McDonald January 23 at Davies Symphony Hall.

Stern (and frequent sideman McDonald) performed in conjunction with the Symphony's Great Performers Series, which will also bring Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony Orchestra to Davies February 13.

Upon entering the Symphony Hall, note the contribution to the unskilled job-market the Symphony makes: I don't know what the world would do without the guy that brings the xylophone or the page turner guy. Perhaps Davies is the reason President Clinton got to point out the lower unemployment rate in his State of the Union earlier in the evening.

Stern and McDonald began with more of a whimper than a bang. Generally, I like the idea of Beethoven (Linas had his bust on his little piano in Peanut), I was intrigued even further by the program's notes describing "the unconcerned religious views, the left wing-politics, and the rough manners of the young Rhinelanders."

Nonetheless, the Sonata in D major (Opus 12 number 1) was rather unexciting. The first movement was upbeat but kind of simple; the second was more funky at first but just as naive, and the last part was tenuous but generic. Moreover, Stern didn't seem extraordinarily fond of the piece; either that or he had a bad piece of fish for dinner, since his playing was highly skilled but lacking in that fundamental quality of soul.

I didn't expect much from the Brahms piece either. If you're like me when you hear "Brahms" you think "lullaby." Also "piano." Brahms did write three pieces for the violin, though, of which Sonata 3 in D Minor (Opus 108) has always been the crowd pleaser. That's

probably because of the suppressed energy in the first movement, laid aside for a while in the second and third movements, that just busts out in the Presto. Or, if you prefer the wording of that program, the first part is "at last allowed untrammelled expression" in the final movement. *Untrammelled?* Stern looked as though he was enjoying himself here, and mopped the sweat from the bridge of his nose during his tiny breaks; he finally looked as though he came to play.

Intermission did not allow me enough of a nap. However, it was fun to walk around the atrium surrounding the hall itself and listen to the pretentious conversations drifting through the air like the smell of Giorgio.

The second half was far more energetic. Bartók's Rhapsody 1 for violin and piano was strongly influenced by his Hungarian and Romanian folk music-collecting hobby, according to the program. (note: This is a great story called entirely from program notes. I couldn't even spell Dvorák two weeks ago.) It consisted of two parts, one more pompous (lassù, in Romanian) and one more rollicking (friss), as if lassù had gotten drunk and was dancing around the room.

Dvorák contributed a Romantic Piece (from Opus 75) and a funky Sonata in G Major (Opus 100). The sonatina was influenced by his visit to Minnehaha Falls in Minnesota (he visited the U.S. in 1893), and one can only imagine what he would have written if he had come west. In particular, Dvorák wrote the

Larghetto movement on the sleeve of his shirt while looking at the falls themselves. It was actually his 98th Opus, but since he was presenting it to his children as a gift he wanted to cheat and make it a special number. The sonatina was terrifically played—Stern's bowing looked really well-controlled—but it left the audience wanting something else.

Kreidler gave it to them, in his Siciliano and Rigaudon and his Prelude and Allegro. Kreidler liked to lie to audiences about whether he wrote a piece or not because he thought it was tacky to be both the performer and the writer. These pieces were all attributed to 14th century Baroque randoms until the late 1930s, when a decrepit old Kreidler finally copped to the hoax. The first two, in particular, were jump-dance-like numbers.

You may have noticed I've said nearly nothing about pianist McDonald. That's because he served the same purpose the Washington Generals serve the Harlem Globetrotters—he supported Stern so that people thought Stern's mistakes were his, and he was really sort of bland, like a mayonnaise sandwich on white. Poor guy.

In the end, the symphony just pointed up the greatness of America. Only here could you watch the State of the Union, saluting President Clinton with a Big Mac and a jog, then top off the evening with music by dead white men. I highly recommend the experience to everyone.

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Restaurant Reviews Stick to the Salad

Alva Lin
FEATURES EDITOR

While Millennium is located right next to the 200 building, I had never gotten around to going there for lunch. Perhaps it's because Millennium just didn't strike me as a law student-lunch type of place, like Costello's or Chavito's. However, I decided to give it a try when my cousin Richard came to visit. We were joined by Editor in Chief Connie Standley.

The restaurant turned out to be much larger than I thought, with the dining room located downstairs. The first level, of which I had seen glimpses of while hurrying off to class, is actually a cafe which serves coffee and baked goods.

The ambience of the dining room was quite soothing - a far cry from the cacophonous mess of the Tenderloin lurking just outside Millennium's door. I admired the cool blue goblets which adorned our table and listened to jazz playing softly in the background. An enclosed garden grew outside one of the windows, shielding us from the view of the 200 building's loading docks.

Millennium is a vegan restaurant, meaning no use of animal products of any type, not even dairy products or eggs. It was Richard's first experience at a vegan restaurant, and he skeptically remarked, "oh, hey, I guess I can eat vegetables." However, lunch turned out to be more than just a bunch of vegetables.

We began with three types of bread brought out in a basket - poppy seed, sesame, and caraway. Although my taste buds have a fundamental disagreement with caraway, the sesame and poppy seed breads were quite fresh and tasty, especially when topped by the garlicky top spread, provided in lieu of butter.

For starters, we each ordered a salad. When the waiter brought the salads out, we realized we had made the mistake of assuming that these were appetizer salads. In reality, each of these dishes was large enough to make a meal in itself.

Connie had the Fall Salad, consisting of grilled butternut squash, marinated French lentils, and Fuji apples over red cabbage and mixed greens. The salad was quite colorful and pleasing to the eye. "The greens are definitely not from Costco," she quipped.

However, Connie had some difficulty in handling her dish, as the silverware was somewhat large and cumbersome - somewhat like eating with a monkey wrench and a crowbar.

Cousin Richard opted for the Millennium Greens, composed of mixed greens, carrots, and miscellaneous fruits and vegetables tossed with a balsamic vinaigrette dressing. Richard said of his salad, "it's really bland."

For myself, I chose the Warm Spinach Salad, which turned out to be the least aesthetically pleasing of the three salads, but definitely the best tasting. This dish was composed of spinach leaves, mushrooms, red onions, and smoked feta topped with a warm balsamic olive oil dressing.

Disappointingly, the entrees were not on par with the salads. Connie's Moroccan Crepes, made from chickpea flour and filled with grilled vegetables, were mediocre and neither here nor there. On the other hand, the accompanying barley pilaf with mint and cilantro raita was nicely nutty. Ironically, the dish was garnished with yet more salad.

Similarly, Richard was unimpressed with his Lebanese Lavaah Roll. The menu described it as "marinated chickpeas with coconuts mint and cilantro raita," but it seemed more like a garbanzo bean burrito than anything else.

My Portobello Sandwich consisted of a large grilled portobello mushroom on a baguette. While the mushroom had a sweet smoky taste, the bread that it lay upon had been baked to a brick-like consistency. The sandwich came with a side of yellow finn potatoes, which everyone sampled, and then came to the unanimous conclusion that the potatoes were undercooked.

In addition, Millennium has an extensive wine list. Since none of us felt like going back to class with spinning heads, we sampled the non-alcoholic beverages instead. Connie had some sort of a home-grown sassafras rootbeer. Sassafras or no sassafras, "it tastes just like a normal root beer." Richard's "China Cola" also tasted just like a Coca-Cola, despite the fact that the label boasted a bewildering variety of Chinese herbs in the ingredients section. Being a big fan of apples, I chose the "Apple Zinger," which despite its name, was rather insipid, and had only slight hints of apple flavor. So

Vivande is a Visual Feast, Especially the Bathroom Walls

Molly Peterson
FEATURES EDITOR

Continuing our targeted pillage of Opera Plaza, the editors of the *Law News* trooped over to Vivande for lunch Saturday and enjoyed the pretension of a trendy Italian experience.

Upon entering the restaurant we were struck by the pleasant wood and earth-toned decor, with the spray of fresh vegetables resting on the end of the counter. (Also by the "V" logo on every chair, plate, window and menu in sight.) It was as though Mantha Stewart had swept through, sponging the walls for a marbled effect while lecturing on the virtues of The Common Theme. A second glance around, however, yielded a view of the orange and white striped lamps more reminiscent of T.G. Friday's than Martha's home show. With bottomless glasses of water and bread dipped in olive oil in hand, we turned to the menus.

Editor in Chief Connie Standley said that the fettuccine alla carbonara, made with pancetta and pecorino cheese, performed a delicate balancing act between the richness of the cream and the spice of the Italian governmentally-approved pancetta, a type of bacon made from well-cured prosciutto. Since the pancetta were not subdued but rather enhanced by the pepper and basil-laden egg noodles, it was our favorite dish, even though it was unlovely.

The pizza con funghi, at \$10 the cheapest luncheon entree, consisted of a light crust topped with parmesano reggiano and adorned with portobello, crimini and tree oyster mushrooms. Nobody looked closely enough to tell one kind of mushroom from another; the funghi were just laid on top and allowed to speak for themselves. For this reason, we caution that "if you're not ready to shroom, stay out of this room." There's not much else to this dish, so be prepared, as the Boy Scouts

say.

The pasta primavera included fresh seasonal vegetables (zucchini, spinach, tomatoes, mushrooms, and red and green peppers) tossed in a light virgin olive oil. Connie was initially attracted to the light and summery burst of color; the rest of us just ate up without comment. The oil allowed the flavor of the vegetables to predominate, giving the entree a light and summery taste to complement the appearance.

Crespelle di ricotta, baked crepes with cheese and eggs in a creamy tomato sauce, was accompanied by arugula salad on the side topped with a simple yet pleasant vinaigrette. The tomato-cream sauce and the runny cheese coincided with the weak crispness of the crepe itself. While copy editor Lily Epstein declined to make any overly vitriolic comment on her virgin restaurant review, the rest of us were far less kind. "I don't eat food that oozes" and "slimy consistency" were two of the more printable ones.

In addition, the table sampled two wines by the glass. The chardonnay Alois Lageder "Bueholz" 1993, at \$6.00 a glass, was ridiculously overpriced and somewhat elementary in flavor, with oak as its predominant note. The menu described it as being "more subtle than Californian," and exulted its alleged virtues of even texture and good balance. Since we just found it boring, this must be the wine connoisseur's version of "good personality."

The second wine, a red, was a pleasant surprise for copy editor Sarah Levitan. The Monica di Sardegna Argiolas "Perdena" 1993 at \$4.50 a glass was more realistically priced. It was soft and velvety with smoky fruitish undertones. "I sure dug that wine," Sarah remarked as she gulped the last of it down.

Both of the pastas were presented on Brodighian bowls with similarly large chargers underneath. All of the dishes made the portions seem Lilliputian but

that was an illusion, since everyone left the table with their appetites well satiated.

But not before we sampled four of the more appetizing desserts. According to Vivande, the "earthquake cake," a crisp-crust chocolate coconut laden with butter, is well known; however, that's probably because it tastes like Duncan Hines brownie batter if you try it without the light raspberry puree that accompanied it. The tiramisu was hardly exemplary but was well soaked with rum and therefore on the upper end of the tiramisu scale. Despite having consumed wine with my meal, Sarah condemned alcohol in dessert as not appealing.

The pasticcio di frutta was an apple-cobbler like dessert but with pears and figs too, served warm with a vanilla gelato. The exception to the "you can't go wrong with..." rule was Mirella's Gelato, served in a flattened brick and topped with candied lemon peel and espresso beans. The gelato had three tastes as it was consumed; it began with a sandy and cold texture, then proceeded into a creamy-cream like flavor before its strong fruit finish. While the rest of us found this a little too strange for consumption, Sarah proclaimed her undying love for Mirella's treat, and consumed it with vigor (and a fork).

Overall, the waitstaff was attentive and friendly, though in a haughty sort of way. Nonetheless, they were free of many of the usual trappings of yuppie restaurant servitude, such as the Big Pepper and the recital of the special all with radicchio in them, so who's to complain?

We also give the bathrooms a good review, despite the fact that some were offended by the graphic scenes on the sponged-effect walls, since they were impeccably clean. Sarah and Connie studied the wall murals, while Lily looked on dubiously. The writer left in disgust. But why would you have that on the wall of the handicapped-access stall?

the cake.

Millennium is a relaxing place for lunch if you're in the mood for a brief (and healthy) getaway lunch from the oh-so-wonderful Hastings neighborhood. However, it would probably be best to avoid the entrees, and stick with one of the salads instead. Oh, and be sure to end it all with a dessert. Salads and lunch entrees range from \$3.95

to \$7.95.

And, the most important part of the review:

Richard's Restaurant Review: The men's room is small, with a faint urine aroma. The urinal is very high and not suitable for shortsies.

much for these fancy high-speed to-drag drinks.

For dessert, the three of us shared the Chocolate Almond Midnight "a dense chocolate mousse cake topped with maple-almond crunch." The cake was small, but delightfully chocolatey, and very rich. The tangy raspberry sauce provided the perfect complement to the sweetness of

Movies

Dead Man Waxes Philosophical

Jin Lee
STAFF WRITER

When was the last time a movie spurred you into a serious political/philosophical debate? I thought those days of cappuccino-laced midnight debates were gone with my undergraduate years at Berkeley, where I put in more hours at the UC Theater and Palace of Fine Arts than some of my classes. Not only have most of my friends gone off to bigger and better things in bigger and better metropolitan areas, but between flipping through my *Legalins* and *Blue-Booking* my L&WR memos, I seem to have lost my appetite for those other little joys of life.

But after watching *Dead Man Walking* with an old friend from Cal, I found myself in a heated discussion that flirted with the philosophical questions of yesteryear. Sure, this time, I was busy trying to justify my student loans by regurgitating a winter-break-edited version of my outline for *Crim Law* — the chapter on capital punishment. But *Dead Man Walking* really forces this emotional issue in your face, presses against your flesh, and dares you to act like you're above it all.

Dead Man Walking is an understated character study with a documentary feel. There are no elaborate plot twists or fancy camera techniques, but it is rich with thoughtfully rendered, sometimes surprising detail that will keep you glued to two characters for two hours. The emotions are not created by polemic devices, but subtly permeate from the human story of two palpably real people.

Tim Robbins co-produced, wrote, and directed this movie, adapted from the true-life account of Sister Helen Prejean. Susan Sarandon plays Sister Helen, who is called upon to counsel and accompany death row inmate Matthew Poncelet, played by Sean Penn.

You may know that Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon aren't exactly the most politically subdued couple in Hollywood, but Robbins doesn't make the issue easy. Convinced of the murder and rape of a teenage couple, Poncelet is extremely

difficult to embrace, with his ranting about "lasy niggers," defiant but sophomoric moral posturing, and his conniving smears at Sister Helen who comes to counsel him at his request. Robbins does not let us forget that this is the person we are talking about when you and I use the phrase "scum of the earth." He is the "other" of our society, no matter what your political leaning may be. Poncelet is no innocent victim of a corrupt judicial system, or mere product of social disadvantages. This is the person we as a society have decided to protect ourselves from, the *raison d'être* for our criminal justice system.

Sean Penn is completely convincing in fleshing out the "dead man walking," a convict counting down the hours to his own death. He blathers on about his adulation for Hitler, but as he expresses envy for Martin Luther King, Jr., it is clear that this is not some evil incarnate, but a frail human being stumbling in the unforgiving battle to develop a socially compatible person. In some much more raw, unaffected way, he struggles with his own sense of goodness, worthiness and love. We sense his powerful, unconditional love for his mother, his confused but identifiable sense of individual responsibility that he tries to articulate to Sister Helen.

Sarandon also does her usual excellent work, though obviously a less forceful presence than Penn. She unwittingly stumbles into this challenge to her role, both as a messenger of God and a literal eyewitness in the detailed mechanics of today's American justice system. Through her, the audience is forced to face the havoc wrought upon the murder victim's families, as well as the convict's family. Although her convictions (and Robbins') ultimately color the movie somewhat, the audience is not spared the difficult questions and larger implications.

When a movie like *Dead Man Walking* may be as close as I'm going to get to seeing the human side of capital punishment, I don't know if that says more about the quality of the movie, or my path into the legal system. Maybe I just need another cappuccino.

Opus is an Opus

Molly Peterson
FEATURES EDITOR

Mr. Holland's *Opus*, which opened two weeks ago, is a teaching and sweet portrayal of a man dedicated to creating a classic piece of music who succeeds in an entirely different oeuvre.

Though he begins as every student's nightmare, Mr. Holland's teaching and love for music become both affecting and infectious. Richard Dreyfuss is amazing as Mr. Holland, aging over 30 years. Overcoming a nostalgic and simplistic tone at times, Dreyfuss sets up perfectly the conflict within Holland — between his desire to write a great American symphony and his responsibilities to his "kids." Adding dimension and definition to his conflict are Holland's unexpected family challenges (especially his son, Coltrane).

The supporting cast was excellent. As Mrs. Holland, Glenn Headley conveyed her love, frustration and pride with her expressive face. Olympia Dukakis does a nice (albeit short) turn as the school principal; W.H. Macy is the evil, budget-cutting administrator who for some reason is supposed to be likeable in the final scene.

The most pleasant surprise is Jay Thomas, veteran of the on-screen sitcom, who adds depth as Mr. Holland's unlikely friend, the football coach. In addition, Forrest Whitaker's brother playing an unruly student and Jay from the London cast of MTV's "The Real World" are notable cameos.

I never had the pleasure of a high school music class; however, I got the impression from other theatergoers that this movie took them back. It sounds true, but when the red-haired girl learns to play the clarinet, it's Mr. Holland's success, and the audience's too. And all of those little triumphs make up the larger opus of Mr. Holland's work over 30 years.

The movie does drop into cliché occasionally. Mr. Holland's impassioned plea for the arts near the end doesn't entirely fit, and the *Forrest Gump*-like montage of since-Vietnam television clips indicating the passage of time does not convincingly ring true. Because of these minor flaws the last few minutes seem superfluous; the plot warranted about 25 minutes less of film.

My mother, who went with me, cried. While this normally indicates a too-high level of cheesy school, this time she had it right. Mr. Holland's *Opus* is a Dreyfuss-powered discovery of what a teaching career should be all about.

LL Review

Are We There Yet?

Tracy Ashleigh
STAFF WRITER

Last week I crashed, and hard. I literally went home and cried: going through another two years of this seemed completely impossible. The funny thing is, I couldn't point to anything specific that was so overwhelming. It was just that feeling that nothing was working and there were too many demands, and what on earth was I thinking when I came here?

Fortunately, I have The List. It's a more of a sticky note, actually; disappearing and reappearing as I shuffle the ever-growing pile of books and moot court cases on my desk. The List contains my three priorities, in order of importance: Health, Marriage, School.

The beginning of my dive into the depths came when I returned to school, only to receive the first in a monotonous stream of The Grade. As in, I got the same grade in every single subject, and it didn't begin with "A." Sure, finals sucked, with ideals. But I expected at least some variety in my scores. And then I strolled Moot Court and rapidly realized that there is an enormous amount of writing due from the start. Unfortunately, I had the worst L&WR instructor in the history of the universe. He has since been "discontinued" from the program, but it doesn't change the fact that I still don't know how to IRAC. I did, however, get a number of lectures on the law school experience, and the difference between *Truth, Justice, and The Law*. No, really? This guy actually told me to my face that "you can't teach legal writing." So exactly what was the point of that class? So I'm totally incompetent at legal writing, and you want how many pages due when?

But wait, there's more! Off to my statutory class in Consumer Health, where I soon reaffirmed my belief that having a concentration in English is hazardous to your legal career. It seems "statutory" doesn't mean "an established rule" (i.e., you have to take one of your classes), it means "of or pertaining to statutes" (i.e., you're going to be analyzing the little devils for the next four months). Yes, I'm interested in health law, but I probably would have found the history of environmental statutes to be a little more interesting. Thank goodness Professor Cohen is a lively instructor. Last week we got to role play while we debated a student-made curfew law. Very helpful, and fun to boot.

And then there's Property, which often finds me staring blankly into space as I desperately search my brain cells for some logical reason why the court doesn't care if the two people standing in front of it are both doctors. Is it just me, or does this make no sense? Add in a few personal crises, suit work, and voila! Law school angst.

Miraculously, The List reassured just when I needed it. Health, Marriage, School. Priority One, keep searching for the wonder drug that will prevent migraines without making me sleep through class with my husband every day, no matter what. Priority Three, do my best to understand all this stuff they keep throwing at me.

Priority Three, it's not as important, but not the most important, thing in my life. And as long as I keep that in mind, it doesn't really matter if finals suck, or if I ever remember the difference between FRCP 20(b) and 42(b), or even what The Grade is.

Because there's more to my life than this school, now and forever. I have friends and family who love me. They don't care if I even finish, let alone in the top 20%. And when it comes down to it, isn't that what life is all about?

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